

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03000 070902Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 ONY-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /021 W
-----002632 070907Z /10 R

O 070658Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1679

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3000

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR HAROLD SAUNDERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR US IS XF OVIP (BEGIN, MENACHEM)
SUBJ: BEGIN TRIP TO WASHINGTON

REF.: STATE 56251

1. AS FAR AS I CAN JUDGE NOW, BEGIN IS BRINGING NO NEW PROPOSALS. HE WILL HARDLY BE EMPTY HANDED, FOR HE WILL HAVE THE SAME HEAVY BAGGAGE OF HIS PEACE PLANS WITH WHICH WE ARE ALREADY FAMILIAR. BUT HE STILL BELIEVES THEM TO BE WORTHY OF OUR SUPPORT. SO LONG AS THEY HAVE NOT, IN HIS VIEW, BEEN FLATLY REJECTED BY THE ARABS, HE SEES NO NEED TO MODIFY THEM. WHAT HE WILL BE TRYING TO DO IS TO CONVINCE US TO START AGAIN SAYING "SOME NICE THINGS ABOUT HIS PEACE PROPOSALS". HE SAYS WE WERE VERY COMPLIMENTARY IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY, "BUT SINCE SADAT CAME THERE HAS NOT BEEN ONE COMPLIMENTARY WORD ABOUT THE PLANS."

2. BEGIN SAYS THE CABINET TOOK NO DECISIONS ON POSSIBLE CHANGES--THOUGH HE DOES NOT DENY THERE WERE IDEAS DISCUSSED. HE WANTS TO FIND OUT FROM US "WHERE THE PEACE PROCESS IS GOING" BEFORE ANY CHANGES IN HIS PLAN ARE
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DECIDED UPON. HE AGAIN ALLUDED TO SUBSTITUTING SINAI "BORDER RECTIFICATION" FOR PART OF THAT PLAN IF THE US AND EGYPT REJECT THE PRESENT SCHEME--BUT SAID NO DECISION IS YET TAKEN. HE CALLED DAYAN'S "UNILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION" SCHEME FOR THE WEST BANK "DAYAN'S PERSONAL IDEA." BEGIN DID NOT REJECT IT, BUT SHOWED GREAT SKEPTICISM THAT IT WAS FEASIBLE.

3. MY OVERALL SENSE FROM OUR MEETING LAST NIGHT IS
THAT BEGIN IS STANDING PAT ON HIS PRESENT PROPOSALS--
POLITICALLY IMMOBILIZED BY THE RISING OPPOSITION FROM
GOING FORWARD TOWARD MORE FLEXIBILITY, AND TEMPTED
TO GO BACK. YOU SHOULD CERTAINLY NOT LOOK
FOR ANY BOLD NEW BEGIN SCHEMES TO BE TABLED NEXT WEEK.
LEWIS

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